

METHOD FOR FABRICATING MESH OF TETRAODE FIELD-EMISSION DISPLAY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to a method for fabricating a mesh of
5 a tetraode field-emission display, and more particular, to a method for fabricating a
mesh combining a converging electrode layer, an insulation layer and a gate layer.

The field-emission display is a very newly developed technology among flat
panel display field. Being self-illuminant, such type of display does not require a
back light source like the liquid crystal display. In addition to the better brightness,
10 the viewing angle is broader, power consumption is lower, response speed is faster
(no residual image), and the operation temperature range is larger. The image
quality of the field-emission display is similar to that of the conventional cathode
ray tube (CRT) display, while the dimension of the field-emission display is much
thinner and lighter compared to the cathode ray tube display. Therefore, it is
15 foreseeable that the field-emission display may replace the liquid crystal display in
the market. Further, the fast growing nanotechnology enables nano-material to be
applied in the field-emission display, such that the technology of field-emission
display will be commercially available.

Figure 1 shows a conventional triode field-emission display, which includes
20 an anode plate 10 and a cathode plate 20. A spacer 14 is placed in the vacuum
region between the anode plate 10 and the cathode plate 20 to provide isolation and
support thereof. The anode plate 10 includes an anode substrate 11, an anode
conductive layer 12 and a phosphor layer 13. The cathode plate 20 includes a
cathode substrate 21, a cathode conductive layer 22, an electron emission layer 23, a
25 dielectric layer 24 and a gate layer 25. A potential difference is provided to the gate
layer 25 to induce electron beam emission from the electron emission layer 23. The
high voltage provided by the anode conductive layer 12 accelerates the electron

beam with sufficient momentum to impinge the phosphors layer 13 of the anode plate 10, which is then excited to emit a light. To allow electron moving in the field-emission display, the vacuum is maintained at least under 10^{-5} torr, such that a proper mean free path of the electron is obtained. In addition, contamination and
5 poison of the electron emission source and the phosphors layer have to be avoided. Further, the electron emission layer 23 and the phosphors layer 13 have to be spaced from each other by a predetermined distance for accelerating the electron with the energy required to generate light from the phosphors layer 13.

The electron beam emitted by the conventional structure is typically in a fan
10 configuration, and the diverging range of such electron beam is difficult to control by the triode field-emission display. The electron beam is easily excessively divergent and may even impinge the phosphors layer 33 of the neighboring unit to degrade the display effect. Therefore, a tetra-polar structure is proposed as shown in Figure 2. In the tetra-polar structure, a fourth electrode, that is, the converging
15 electrode is formed in addition to the triode structure. A mesh 5 is formed between the cathode plate 40 and the anode plate 30. The mesh 5 includes a converging electrode layer 51, an insulation layer 52 and a gate layer 53. The converging electrode layer 51 is proximal to the anode plate 30, the gate layer 53 is proximal to the cathode plate 40, and the insulation layer 52 is sandwiched between the
20 converging electrode layer 51 and the gate layer 53. An isolation wall 44 is formed to extend between the gate layer 53 and the cathode layer 40. The cathode plate 40 includes a cathode substrate 41, a cathode conductive layer 42 and an electron emission source layer 43. The gate layer 53 and the converging electrode layer 51 carries adequate potentials. A plurality of apertures 54 is formed to extend through
25 the mesh 5. Each of the apertures 54 is aligned with a corresponding unit of anode and cathode, such that electron beam generated from the electron emission source layer 43 can propagate towards the phosphor layer 33.

Practically, due to the divergence of the electron beam, the apertures 54 of the mesh 5 are modified as shown in Figure 3. That is, the first aperture 511' of the converging electrode layer 51' is larger than the second aperture 521' of the insulation layer 52' and the third aperture 531' of the gate layer 53'. In fabrication, a metal conductive plate is used as a base of the mesh 5. That is, the converging electrode layer 51 fabricated from the metal conductive plate. The insulation layer 52 is formed on the bottom surface of the metal conductive layer. A conductive layer is then formed on the bottom surface of the insulation layer 52 to serve as the gate layer 53. The metal conductive plate is processed to form an array of first through apertures 511'. The position of each first aperture 511' is aligned with each unit of anode and cathode formed on the anode and cathode plates 30 and 40, respectively. The apertures 54 serve as emission channel for the electron beam emitted from each cathode.

The above tetraode structure provides the converging electrode layer 51 to converge the electron beam, such that the electron beam can impinge the corresponding phosphors layer 33 precisely. Therefore, the electron beam is prevented from impinging the phosphor layer 33 of the neighboring units. The display effect of the field emission display is thus greatly enhanced. However, as the insulation layer 52 and the gate layer 53 are still fabricated by screen printing, the disadvantages are existed as follows.

First, as shown in Figure 3, since the first aperture 511' of the converging electrode layer 51' is larger, when printing the insulation layer 52' and the gate layer 53', the peripheries of the second aperture 521' and the third aperture 531' may be damaged.

Second, since the existence of the first aperture 511', when printing the insulation layer 52' and the gate layer 53', the first aperture 511' may be contaminated by applying a glass glue coating of the insulation layer 52', and the

conduction between the gate layer 53' and the converging electrode layer 51' may be blocked by applying a silver glue coating of the gate layer 53'.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a method for fabricating a mesh of a tetraode
5 field-emission display. A tri-layer mesh including a converging electrode layer, an insulation layer and a gat layer is laminated by a pressing apparatus, and the photolithography and etching process instead of the screen printing process is performed to prevent the deterioration of the second and third apertures, and the short conduction between of the gate layer and the converging electrode layer, such
10 that the yield of mesh production is enhanced.

The mesh structure provided by the present invention is fabricated by processing a metal conductive layer served as the converging electrode layer with a plurality of first apertures, pressing a glass glue to fill in the first apertures, forming an insulation layer, removing filled glass glue from the first aperture by etching, and
15 forming the gate layer and a plurality of second and third apertures corresponding to the first apertures in the insulation layer and the gate layer respectively.

These and other objectives of the present invention will become obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art after reading the following detailed description of preferred embodiments.

20 It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary, and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These as well as other features of the present invention will become more
25 apparent upon reference to the drawings therein:

Figure 1 illustrates a local cross sectional view of a conventional triode field-emission display;

Figure 2 is a local cross sectional view of a tetraode field-emission display;

Figure 3 is a schematic drawing of a mesh of a tetraode field-emission display;

5 Figure 4 shows a schematic drawing of a mesh production after the first step of the present fabrication method;

Figure 5 shows a schematic drawing of a mesh production after the second step of the present fabrication method;

10 Figure 6 is shows a schematic drawing of a mesh production after the fourth step of the present fabrication method;

Figure 7 shows a schematic drawing of a mesh production after the seventh step of the present fabrication method;

Figure 8 shows a schematic drawing of a mesh production after the eighth step of the present fabrication method;

15 Figure 9 shows a schematic drawing of a mesh production after the ninth step of the present fabrication method; and

Figure 10 shows a schematic drawing of a mesh production after the tenth step of the present fabrication method;.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers are used in the drawings and the description to refer to the same or like parts.

Referring to Figure 4, according to the first step of the method for fabricating
25 a mesh of a tetraode field-emission display of the present invention, the glass glue or the silicon oxide is used to coat on a flat film 71 by a free contact coating

machine 61. Such that a coating layer 72 is formed on the film layer 71. For example, the coating layer 72 can be a glass coating paste DG001 produced by DuPont Company.

As in step two, a metal conductive plate with a plurality of first apertures 731
5 is formed on the coating layer 72 to serve as the converging electrode layer 73. The material of the converging electrode layer 73 is preferably selected from an iron and nickel composite plate that has a thermal expansion coefficient similar to that of the anode and cathode substrates to prevent from crack during vacuum package process due to thermal expansion difference. Thereafter, a pressing apparatus 62 is
10 performed to laminate the coating layer 72 on the converging electrode layer 73, such that the glass glue of the coating layer 72 is filled in the first apertures 731 of the converging electrode layer 73, as shown in Figure 5.

As in step three, after a low-temperature baking, remove the film layer 71.

In step four, a same coating as the coating layer 72 is formed by the free
15 contact coating machine 61, or is printed by a fully printing with no pattern to form the insulation layer 74 on the converging electrode layer 73, as shown in Figure 6. Preferably, the insulation layer 74 is formed on the same surface which the film is removed from the converging electrode layer 73.

As in step five, a sintering process is performed to harden the insulation layer
20 74 to firmly attach on the converging electrode layer 73.

In step six, a gate layer 75 is formed on the insulation layer 74 by the screen printing or the photolithographic process. The gate layer 75 includes a plurality of third apertures 751 corresponding to the first aperture 731 of the converging electrode layer 73. For example, the gate layer 75 can be the photosensitive silver
25 glue such as a silver conductive paste DC206 of DuPont Company and the third apertures 751 are formed by lithography using low-concentration sodium carbonate solution as the developer.

As in step seven, another sintering process is performed to secure the gate layer 75 attached on the insulation layer 74, as shown in Figure 7.

As in step eight, the protective layers 76 and 77 are formed on outer surfaces of the gate layer 75 and the converging layer 73, respectively. For example, a dry film with negative type photoresist can be used to form the protective layers 76 and 77, and a low-concentration sodium carbonate solution is used to develop a plurality of through hole 761 and 771 thereon, respectively, as shown in Figure 8. The through hole 761 and 771 are corresponding to the first apertures 731 of the converging electrode layer 73 and the third apertures 751 of the gate layer 75, such that the coating material, i.e. the glass glue, filled in the first apertures 731 in the step two can be removed and a plurality of second apertures of the insulation 73 can be formed by the following etching step, respectively,

As in step nine, a etching process is performed to remove the filled coating in the first apertures 731 of the converging electrode layer 73, and to form a plurality of second apertures 741 corresponding to the first apertures 731, such that the first, second, third apertures 731, 741 and 751 are aligned to form through holes, respectively, as shown in Figure 9. For example, a low-concentration nitric acid solution is used for etching.

As in step ten, remove the protective layers 76, 77 by using a low-concentration sodium hydroxide solution to complete the mesh fabrication, as shown in Figure 10.

Accordingly, the mesh fabricated by the present invention has the first apertures of the converging electrode layer larger than the second apertures of the insulation layer and the third apertures of the gate layer. Moreover, the above-mentioned conventional shortages are solved.

While an illustrative and presently preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in detail herein, it is to be understood that the inventive concepts

may be otherwise variously embodied and employed and that the appended claims are intended to be construed to include such variations except insofar as limited by the prior art.